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# LABORATORY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, HELENA, MONTANA

No. [redacted] David B. Lackman, Ph.D., Administrator

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FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY IN MONTANA

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I. To serve as a reference laboratory for difficult and unusual procedures and to carry out those which would be inordinately expensive if not performed in large volume. (Taxonomic classification of organisms referred to the State laboratory; Rubella hemagglutination-inhibition tests; virological procedures)\*

II. To provide services required by laws of the State or rules of the Department. (Contract with Highway Safety Director to provide laboratory services for the alcohol counter-measures program; Serologic tests for syphilis under the premarital and prenatal laws; tests on newborns for phenylketonuria; microbiological and chemical testing of public water supplies)

III. To provide laboratory services for special studies and programs of other divisions, bureaus, and units in the department. (Culturing for Neisseria gonorrhoeae in the family planning program; chemical tests for Water Quality, Air Quality, Environmental Services and Industrial Hygiene; microbiological tests for Community Disease Control; mycobacteriology for tuberculosis control unit)

IV. To work for improvement in the performance of clinical laboratories in the State. (Bench training for technologists in clinical microbiology in the State laboratory; proficiency tests in syphilis serology and bacteriology for laboratories in the state; conducting workshops; consultation on trouble spots in a laboratory)

V. To improve the quality and relevance of our laboratory's services. (Participation in the department's program planning activities; utilization of over 15 national proficiency tests; attendance by personnel at short courses at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Environmental Protection Administration in Cincinnati; attendance at national scientific and professional meetings; visits to and consultation with public health laboratories in other states)

VI. To cooperate with the Animal Health Division of the Department of Livestock and its diagnostic laboratory in controlling diseases in nature communicable to man. (Western equine encephalitis, Rabies, Salmonellosis, Brucellosis)

VII. To assure that residents of Montana have access to public health laboratory services and recent developments in medical science equally with residents of other states. (Activities of division administrator on a national basis; e.g. Executive Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors; Governing Council of the American Public Health Association; Representative from HEW Region VIII on the Committee on Affiliated Associations, Regional Branches and Chapters of the APHA; Laboratory Section Council of APHA)

VIII. To provide services for, and to work with, Federal agencies and installations in the State concerned with health. (Veterans Administration Hospital, Indian Health Service, Rocky Mountain Laboratory)

IX. To consult with, and to utilize services provided by, agencies of the Federal government on professional and technical aspects and financing of public health laboratory work. (Center for Disease Control, Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Administration)

\* Parentheses = a few specific examples of implementation of this particular function.

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